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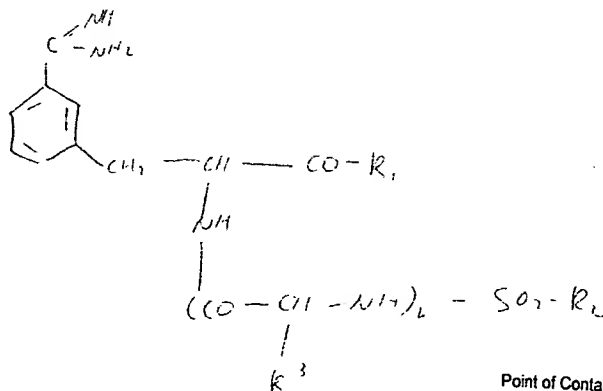
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Please provide a detailed statement of the search topic, and describe as specifically as possible the subject matter to be searched. Include the elected species or structures, keywords, synonyms, acronyms, and registry numbers, and combine with the concept or utility of the invention. Define any terms that may have a special meaning. Give examples or relevant citations, authors, etc. if known. Please attach a copy of the cover sheet, pertinent claims, and abstract.

Title of Invention: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventors (please provide full names): \_\_\_\_\_

Earliest Priority Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

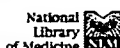
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Point of Contact:  
Barb O'Brien  
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1: Biochem Soc Trans 2002 Apr;30(2):207-10

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Transactions

## Urokinase-type plasminogen activator: a potent marker of metastatic potential in human cancers.

Duffy MJ.

Department of Nuclear Medicine, St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin 4, Ireland. michael.j.duffy@ucd.ie

Urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) is a serine protease that is causally involved in cancer progression, especially invasion and metastasis. Multiple studies have shown that breast cancer patients whose primary cancer contains high levels of uPA have a significantly worse outcome than patients with low levels. As a prognostic marker for breast cancer the information supplied by uPA is both independent of traditionally used factors and significant in the important subgroup of axillary-node patients. Paradoxically, high levels of plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), an endogenous inhibitor of uPA, also predict for aggressive disease. Recently, the prognostic impact of both uPA and PAI-1 in axillary node-negative breast cancer was confirmed using two different Level 1 Evidence studies, i.e. in both a randomized prospective trial and a pooled analysis. Therefore, uPA and PAI-1 appear to have fulfilled all the criteria for the routine assessment of prognosis in newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.

### Publication Types:

- Review
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